

## **DOE Weekly Field Memo – May 20, 2009**

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### **Deputy Commissioner for Transformation Bill Romond Retiring**

#### **Audience: All**

The Vermont Department of Education's Deputy Commissioner for Transformation Bill Romond will be retiring at the end of June. Here is a message from Bill:

At the end of June I will complete my 41<sup>st</sup> year working full time in the Vermont education system, and I've decided to retire at that time. I am so enthusiastic about the momentum building for educational Transformation both inside the department and across the state, and I feel fortunate to have been part of this effort. Leaving this work and the people here are my regrets. At the same time, my family and other personal interests are also very important to me. I have no doubt whatsoever that Commissioner Vilaseca, working with all of you and Vermont's fabulous educators, will guide Vermont's educational system to even more success than ever.

Contact: Bill Romond at (802) 828-0064 or [bill.romond@state.vt.us](mailto:bill.romond@state.vt.us)

### **ARRA: IDEA-B Basic and Pre-School Flow Through Application Forms for Regular Grant Funds and ARRA Funds for FY 2010**

#### **Audience: Special Education Administrators**

View the forms and information needed to apply for FY-2010 IDEA-B Basic and Pre-School Flow Through grants. This includes both the regular grant funds and the funds made available for IDEA-B under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Visit

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery\\_act.html#leap](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery_act.html#leap).

Contact: Rae Ann Knopf at (802) 828-0555 or [rae.knopf@state.vt.us](mailto:rae.knopf@state.vt.us) or Karin Edwards at (802) 828-5118 or [Karin.edwards@state.vt.us](mailto:Karin.edwards@state.vt.us)

### **Principal Verification Process for the Vermont Alternate Assessment (VAA)**

#### **Audience: Principals, Superintendents, Special Education Directors**

Principals will be required to verify the authenticity of the alternate assessment portfolios before they are submitted to the DOE on June 1, 2009. The Principals Responsibilities Agreement Form and a document called Questions Principals Might Ask suggest a framework for a conversation with student planning team members concerning individual student portfolios. Both forms can be found at this link:

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_alternate.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_alternate.html)

Contact: Cyndie Moran, Alternate Assessment Coordinator at (802) 828-0646 or [cindy.moran@state.vt.us](mailto:cindy.moran@state.vt.us)

### **The 16th Annual Vermont Middle Grades Summer Institute**

#### **Audience: Vermont Educators Working with Students Ages 10-15 Year Old**

The Vermont Middle Grades Professional Development Collaborative announces and invites all educators serving 10-15 year olds to attend this four-day, residential institute at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center beginning at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 28, and concluding at 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 2, 2009. Along with the five strands offered, the Collaborative is offering an exciting

opportunity to participate in the GEAR UP Teacher Strand which is now an integral part of the Middle Grades Institute. The Collaborative is presently recruiting teams of teachers from middle schools to participate with a group of their students. As an incentive to participate, teachers will receive a stipend and free room and board at the Institute. See the brochure and more information at <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#middle>. To register, visit <http://Middlegradescollaborative.org> or call (802) 635-1449.

Contact: Heather Schneider at (802) 828-5130 or [heather.schneider@state.vt.us](mailto:heather.schneider@state.vt.us)

### **52<sup>nd</sup> Annual School Plant Operation and Maintenance Conference**

#### **Audience: Custodians, Maintenance Staff, and Facility Managers**

This year's conference features two full days of professional development targeted toward school custodians, maintenance staff and facility managers. Workshop topics include establishing a facility operating plan, saving energy, floor care, school safety, green cleaning products, lighting efficiencies, DDC controls, choosing and maintaining unit ventilators, and the PATH Program. Larry Schoff from the U.S. Department of Energy will present a general session entitled *How Custodial Duties Impact Energy Use in Schools* and Tim Cook of Dale Carnegie Training will offer a presentation on *Time Management*. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with vendors and learn about new products and equipment. The conference will be held at Hartford High School in White River Junction. Registration cost is only \$20.00 and includes two lunches. Registrations must be received by June 17, 2009. Visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#plant> for more information.

**In an effort to keep our conference database current please forward the e-mail addresses for individuals responsible for facility management to Cassandra Ryan at the e-mail address below.**

Contact: Cassandra Ryan at (802) 828-3144 or [cassandra.ryan@state.vt.us](mailto:cassandra.ryan@state.vt.us)

### **Student Support Team Newsletter – May 2009**

#### **Audience: Principals, Superintendents, Special Education Administrators**

This month's Student Support Team Newsletter includes General Supervision Team Update; Worksheet A's; Brain Gains; State I-Team- Offerings; Foundations for Early Learning; What about Summer School?; and LIID News & Notes. View the newsletter at

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_spед.html#newsletter](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_spед.html#newsletter).

Contact: Sabine Baldwin at (802) 828-0183 or [sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us](mailto:sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us)

### **Reminder: 2008-2009 NCLB Instructional Paraprofessional Surveys**

#### **Audience: Superintendents**

The 2008-2009 NCLB Instructional Paraprofessional Surveys are due by May 22 from supervisory unions with Title I schools.

Contact: Lucinda Morabito at (802) 828-1455 or at [lucinda.morabito@state.vt.us](mailto:lucinda.morabito@state.vt.us)

### **From the Agency of Human Services:**

#### **AHS Background Registry Checking Application for Adult Abuse and Child Protection Registries**

##### **Audience: Superintendents, Headmasters of Recognized or Approved Independent Schools**

The Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS) is developing an online screening system to streamline pre-employment background check requests against the Vermont Adult Abuse and Child Protection Registries. This new automated, secure system will assist superintendents and headmasters of recognized or approved independent schools in complying with the recently enacted Act 1 requiring background checks on all new hires or contractors that may have unsupervised contact with children. AHS, in coordination with the Department of Education, will be reaching out to selected superintendent offices in the coming weeks to ask them to demo and provide feedback on the application. Following final development, AHS will contact school districts with detailed instructions about how to use the new system to request background checks and receive results electronically.

The text of Act 1 can be found on the State Legislature Web site at

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2010/Acts/ACT001.pdf>.

AHS Contact: Wendy Magee at (802) 241-2639 or [wmagee@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:wmagee@vdh.state.vt.us)

**From the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation:**

**Vermont Days**

**Audience: All Vermonters**

Vermont Days is a free-use day for all Vermont Parks. On June 13 & 14 get free entry into Vermont State Parks and State-Owned Historic Sites. Free fishing (no license needed) on June 13. Find out more at <http://www.vermontdays.vermont.gov>.

**From the Vermont Teacher Diversity Initiative (VTDI):**

**Spring Speaker Series: Louise Derman-Sparks**

**Audience: Curriculum Coordinators, Pre-K and Elementary Teachers, Elementary Principals**

The Vermont Teacher Diversity Initiative (VTDI) is pleased to be co-sponsoring a "Spring Speaker Series" with the Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VAEYC), bringing noted author Louise Derman-Sparks to Vermont next Thursday, May 28th. Louise is the well-known author of *Anti-bias Curriculum: Tools for Empowering Young Children*. This event will take place at Champlain College from 1:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. for the full offering; an evening-only option is also available from 6:30pm - 8:30pm. Pre-registration is required. For more information about this event: on the VTDI Web site: <http://vtdsp.org/louise-derman-sparks-coming-to-vermont/> on the VAEYC Web site: <http://vaeyc.org/eConnections/051009/FrontPage.html> Contact: Jim Woodard at (802) 540-1021

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**Weekly Field Memo is Online!**

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field\\_memo.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html). Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or [jill.remick@state.vt.us](mailto:jill.remick@state.vt.us).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.